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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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2. Attempts under way since October 1952 to procure thoriated tungsten wire have thus far proved unsuccessful. The sale of thorium is said to be essentially under American control. As a radioactive element, thorium falls under the stipulations of the "Atom Laws". The Ministry for General Machine Construction has received information to the effect that, after the Soviet atomic experiments became known, use of thorium was subjected to extremely severe control. Every gram of thorium must be rigorously accounted for in the capitalist countries.
3. DIA Metall has, in the meantime, received several offers of thoriated tungsten wire. So far, only samples have been received, which after examination, have proved to be only partially useful. However, very recently a new offer has been received, and a certain amount of thoriated tungsten wire is ready to be delivered. It cannot be purchased, however, because the asking price is higher than the price approved by the Ministry of Finance. DIA, therefore, has no possibility of buying the urgently needed material.

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